(c) The minimum subscription was 500 grammes as per the Scheme. The maximum deposited by individuals is not readily available.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal under consideration at present.

Opening of more cash payment centres in Hyderabad & Secunderabad

68. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems of Hyderabad and Secundrabad Telephone subscribers with regard to the centralised bill payment system;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a long standing demand from the public for opening of more cash payment centres under the jurisdiction of Hyderabad telecom; and

(c) what are the proposals of Hyderabad Telecom in this regard to open more centres for payment of phone bills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) The information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House.

Damage to communication equipments in Punjab due to recent floods

69. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the damage done to the communication equipments in Punjab due to heavy rains and floods in the State recently;

(b) what are the names of the most affected areas in Punjab; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Government so far to set right the communication phone lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 16 exchanges were affected. Hence services were interrupted for few days. About 20,000 lines were affected due to major cable failure. STD services for Ropar were cut-off due to damage of PCM cables. Many open wire lines were broken as posts fall down.

(b) Patiala, Ropar, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Jullundar Districts were most affected.

(c) Exchanges have been repaired/replaced barring few towns. Major cable break down are being attended on war footing. Overhead lines are to be re-erected after the flood waters recede.

Measures to avoid the disturbance in telephone services during the rains

70. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of telephones have become dead due to heavy rains and floods in the country;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government on warfooting to put them in order;

(c) whether it is a fact that with every rain such situation is created; and

(d) if so, what long term and permanent measures have been taken by Government to avoid recurrence of such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. Telecom services have been affected only partially due to heavy rains and floods in some parts of the country.

(b) Immediate corrective action is taken to attend the faults and restore the affected telephones by mobilising resources. The staff and officers work round the clock to repair the faulty telephones in quickest possible time in such affected areas.

(c) No, Sir. Only in very rare cases where excessive damages is caused to underground cables by other agencies, there is possibility of a large telephones going faulty in that particular area.

(d) The following measures are being taken to minimise the number of tele phones going faulty during rains:—

(i) Ducting of underground cables. (ii) Cable pressurisation. (iii) Patrolling of important cable routes. (iv) Use of jelly filled cables. (v) Use of improved D.P./C.T. Boxes (D.P. distribution point) C.T. Cable termination. (vi) Adoption of premonsoon precautions. (vii) Co-ordination with other agencies who have underground cables/sewers etc.

मध्य प्रदेश के जनजातीय और पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में टेलीफोन सुविधायें

71. **श्री अजीत जोगी :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंग कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश के जनजातीय और पिछड़े क्षेत्रों में दूर-संचार सुविधाओं के वि र का कार्य पूरा कर लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, त इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या चालू वर्ष के दौरान इन क्षत्रों में दूरभाष केन्द्रों के आधुनिकी-करण हेतु कोई कार्यक्रम तैयार किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) अब तक मध्य प्रदेश के सभी जनजातीय तथा पिछड़े इलाकों में टेलीफोन सुविधाओं का विस्तार करने में सरकार समर्थ नहीं रही है। तथापि, 8वीं योजना अवधि के दौरान, प्राथमिकता के आधार पर जनजातीय तथा पिछड़े इलाकों में टेलीफोन सुविधाएं प्रदान की जा रही हैं।

(ख) 1992–93 के दौरान जन-जातीय तथा पिछड़े इलाकों में खोले गए नए टलीफोन एक्सचेंजों के ब्यौरे :–

पिछड़े इलाके	:	257
जनजातीय इलाके	:	114
जोड़ :		371

(ग) जी हां।

(घ) हमने, उस वर्ष मियाद पूरी कर चुके सभी पुराने इलेक्ट्रोमैकेनिकल एक्सचेंजों को इलेक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंजों से बदलने की योजना बनाई है। ब्यौरे निम्नलिखित हैं :–

छोटे स्वचालित एक्सचेंज	65
मेक्स II	1
जोड़ :	66

जन-जातीय तथा पिछड़े इलाकों में 1992–93 तक 10,729 लम्बी दूरी के सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन चालू किए गए हैं।

Waiting lists of telephones for the towns of Andhra Pradesh

72. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the respective waiting lists of telephones for the towns of Nalgonda, Bhongir, Miryalguda, Choutuppal and Kodad under Andhra Pradesh Telecom and by when these waiting lists are likely to be cleared;

(b) whether it is a fact that no new phones have been released for the above